

## West Linn/Oregon City Arch Bridge Update

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The answer to the most frequently asked question is:

Yes, the work on the bridge is on schedule and is expected to re-open in the fall 2012.

The contractor is currently working on the following:

- Hydroblasting to remove the Guniting (concrete) from the Oregon City side of the bridge, below the deck. This completes the Guniting removal in this section.
- Installing the bumpers along the upstream side of the bridge. They protect the arches from damage caused by floating debris.
- Getting ready for hydroblasting on the West Linn side, below the deck. Additional barges will arrive in mid-September and the contractor will construct the containment system to contain and capture the debris.
- The decorative pylons (obelisks) have been removed and stored for donation to local jurisdictions. The modern "cobra head" lights have been removed and will be replaced with historic replica lighting on the reconstructed pylons. "Shoebox type" overhead lights will be installed next year to provide additional lighting.

### **Another Question and Answer**

The answer to another question we're frequently asked is:

### **Why aren't there more workers on the project?**

**Answer:** This type of rehabilitation work is more sequential and linear than building a new bridge from scratch. When a new bridge starts from scratch workers can work on several areas at a time. In the case of a historic bridge rehabilitation, portions of the bridge are first carefully uncovered, then the structure condition is evaluated, and then the rehab work can begin. On the Arch Bridge, critical repairs were needed below the deck so that the bridge can support and handle the load of the construction equipment. Also, in several areas the deck has been removed first, to provide access to repair the roadway support beams.

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Access to the bridge deck is limited, difficult and confined. Only a few workers can be in a particular area at one time. To address this, the contractor has several small crews working on various parts of the bridge. The crews range from 2-4 people, with 3 to 4 crews working at any point in time. Most work, so far, has been underneath the deck and inside the hydro-demolition containment system and therefore not visible from the street.

### **Traffic Issues**

All-way stop signs will be installed in mid-September, at the West Linn intersection of Willamette Falls Drive and OR 43, to address traffic backups during afternoon commute time.

ODOT asks motorist to not use Mill Street or the West Linn Paper Mill parking lot (private property) to turn around or make U-turns because it interferes with mill operations.

ODOT is continuing to monitor the backups and we are proactively working with the West Linn police on these issues.

### **Survey**

Many thanks to the 195 people who responded to the survey about ODOT's communications efforts for the bridge project and shuttle service. Your responses and suggestions are very insightful and helpful. We are in the process of implementing many of the suggestions such as: Provide more frequent updates and share more information and project photos on the web site. Additional shuttle service is also under consideration.

Feel free to share any additional suggestions or comments with me. My contact information is below.

### **Bridge Shuttle News**

With the nice weather, the daily average ridership for the Bridge Shuttle is growing. After 32 weeks of service, the number of shuttle riders is 19,550 including 3,524 bicyclists.

The average number of pedestrians riding each weekday is currently 100 and the daily average for bicyclists is 16.

The Oregon City Main Street Improvement Project has resulted in a slight change to the routing of the Bridge Shuttle for the next 6 weeks from McLoughlin (OR99E) to Main Street. The stop location has not changed.

### **Temporary Bus Stop Location September 17**

All day, Saturday, September 17, the Bridge Shuttle stop in Oregon City will be moved to 6th Street & McLoughlin, due to the Downtown Car Show. This temporary stop is next to the Elks Lodge and is 3 blocks south of the regular stop.

Please contact me if you have questions.

### **Susan Hanson**

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